



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

February 2, 2017

The Honorable John Kelly  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Lane SW  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Kelly:

I am writing to express my concern regarding expedited implementation of the national Biometric Entry-Exit Tracking System outlined in Section 7 of the President's Executive Order entitled "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorists Entry into the United States." This order calls for "implementation of a biometric entry-exit tracking system for all travelers to the United States," which would impact travelers at both our southern and northern borders equally.

I strongly support increased national security measures across our nation and commend President Trump for his swift action. However, I am concerned that an expedited implementation of this system will not take into consideration the differences in security interests at our northern and southern borders. As demonstrated by the President's Executive Order entitled "Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements," which mandates the construction of a physical wall on the southern border, the U.S. border with Mexico is significantly more vulnerable to illegal immigration than the border with Canada.

Additionally, the facilitation of ease of access between the U.S. and Canada is vital to many local economies, especially those in Western New York. It is undeniable that the economies of New York State and Canada are linked. The border crossings in New York facilitate over \$30 billion in bilateral trade between the state and Canada annually, and Canadian tourists spend over \$1.6 billion in New York each year.

Biometric entry-exit scanning at our northern border would significantly delay the daily commutes of hard-working Americans and Canadians and cause undue burdens on trade. Additional screening at the northern border would also surpass the current capabilities of many of our border facilities. This system would particularly hinder progress across the Peace, Queenston-Lewiston, and Rainbow Bridges in Western New York, which facilitate international travel for millions annually.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to carefully consider the wide-spread impacts implementation of a biometric entry-exit system would have on our northern border.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Collins", with a stylized flourish at the end.

CHRIS COLLINS

Member of Congress